(b) the type of passengers for whom the upgradation facility is available and whether recommendation of Member of Parliament or any other officer is required for this;

(c) the officers entitled for class upgradation;

(d) whether they take decision on their own discretion or there is any criterion for this; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (e) Class upgradation in domestic flights is a commercial matter of airlines. Government does not regulate commercial matters of the airlines.

Fuel expenditure and operation cost of flights

†731. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been huge fall in consumer sale price of aviation turbine fuel used in aviation sector from August 2008 to January 2009;

(b) if so, the percentage of such reduction;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the fuel expenditure contributes more than 50 per cent in the operational cost of flights;

(d) if not, the details thereof; and

(e) the reasons for not passing the benefit being earned due to reduction in operational cost to general passenger yet?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir. There has been a fall in the prices of Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) used in aviation sector from August 2008 to January 2009.

(b) There is a reduction of about 55% in the price of fuel from August 2008 to January 2009.

(c) and (d) The percentage of cost attributable to ATF would be different for different airlines based on their business model. As per industry estimates, ATF accounted for 45 to 50% of the operative cost of Indian Carriers when ATF price was at its peak.

(e) Domestic Airlines have reduced the fuel surcharge in the range of Rs.200/- to 400/-. Further,, JetLite, Spicejet, Go Air and IndiGo have abolished the congestion charge.

Catering facility at airports

†732. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.